WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reduction of Airfares in Delhi-Srinagar Sector

2781. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared Srinagar airport as an international airport in order to enhance the connectivity of Srinagar with the rest of world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Airlines and the private domestic airlines have done nothing to promote Srinagar and are charging exhorbitant airfares;

(c) if so, the reasons for such high airfare on Delhi-Srinagar Sector; and

(d) whether Government would consider reducing the airfares in this sector to promote tourism and introduce APEX fares and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Srinagar airport has been declared as an International airport by the Government of India on 11th March, 2005.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Airlines already offers APEX tares for flights on Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi Sector.

Signing of Air Service Agreement with US

2782. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air service agreement between India and the United States is expected to be signed in the month of April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether under this agreement restrictions have been lifted on the number of airlines that can be carried between the two countries;

(c) whether the earlier agreement has been reframed after 50 years of its existence;

(d) if so, to what extent it will be different from the earlier one and to what extend it will be helpful for both; and

(e) whether by this agreement India has become the 67th Country to have open sky policy with the US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A revised Air Services Agreement between India and USA has been signed on 14th April, 2005 replacing the earlier agreement which was signed in 1956. The existing agreement itself permits either side to designate any number of airlines to operate air services between the two countries. This provision has been retained in the new agreement. The new agreement grants unlimited access to the designated airlines to any points of call in the territory of the other country as against four airports under the earlier agreement. Besides the revised agreement also removes all restrictions on exercise of 5th freedom traffic rights, code share rights and provides for greater operational flexibility. Removal of restrictions on points of call, code share rights and fifth freedom rights would provides for greater operational flexibility. Removal of restrictions on points of call, code share rights and fifth freedom rights would provide greater commercial opportunities to Indian carriers and would enable them to wean away traffic on India-USA routes from third country carriers.

(0 Government does not have any information in this regard.

Setting up of private flight Academy in Hosur (Bangalore)

2783. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indus Aviation Inc. In collaboration with Teneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL) are setting up a private flight academy in Hosur (Bangalore);